PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXXIV.

'THERE IS NO PROPAGANDA LIKE VICTORY'

'Of the Final result I, for one, have never for a moment felt any doubt, and at the present time there is less reason for doubt than at any time before.'

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

SIR ALEXANDER TOTTENHAM, C. I. E.,

Administrator, Pudukkottai State

ON 19—2—43 ON THE OCCASION

OF

THE PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL WAR FRONT PLEDGES AND BADGES

TO

THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU, PUDUKKOTTAI.

Gentlemen of the National War Front, I hope you have been pleased to receive formally from me on behalf of the Darbar your N. W. F., pledges and badges, and that they will give you an incentive to continue your efforts on behalf of the Front without flagging.

I think that your task must now be easier than it was. I have often said that **there is no propaganda like victory**. It is some months since I addressed a branch of the N. W. F. I have had a cough, which induced me to give my voice a rest. When I last spoke it had, I felt, been rather uphill work for some time, encouraging people to ignore the ups and downs (only too often downs !) inseparable from War, to take a long view, to disregard mere incidents, however serious they might appear at the time (the loss of Egypt perhaps)

confident that the enormous strength in men and materials of the Allies must ultimately wear down the enemy. At that time the offensive seemed always—or almost always—to lie with the enemy. How different is the picture now! Smashing victories on the Russian front and on the African front, and the enemy everywhere on the defensive. No doubt hard fights, set-backs and disappointments may lie ahead of us (Hitler himself has told us—or it may have been Goebbels—that one can't expect to have victories all the time) but we can see the path to the eventual defeat of the Axis powers far more clearly than we could. Even in regard to the U-boat campaign, which has always been one of our major anxieties, Mr. Churchill, speaking recently had much to say that was encouraging. Owing to the magnificent and sustained efforts of our workers in America and England we are actually better off for shipping than we were some months ago.

So that now your task is not so much to encourage the faint-hearted as to restrain undue optimism, which might lead to disappointment, and in its turn to undue pessimism again.

Of the final result I, for one, have never for a moment felt any doubt, and at the present time there is less reason for doubt than at any time before.

It only remains for me to thank most whole-heartedly, on behalf of the Darbar and of the people of this State, all you who have been so enthusiastically and unwearyingly giving voluntary service to the cause of the N. W. F. To me it is a cause for pride, as it should be to every citizen of this State, that our effort here has been almost entirely made by unpaid workers, inspired and actuated solely by their zeal for and devotion to the cause of civilization and humanity.

THE WAR SITUATION.

Mr. CHURCHILL'S REVIEW

THE DOMINATING AIM.

February 11, 1943.

The dominating aim which we set before ourselves in the conference at Casablanca was to engage the enemy's forces on land, sea, and in the air, on the largest possible scale and at the earliest possible moment.

The importance of coming to ever closer grips with the enemy, and intensifying the struggle outweighed a number of other considerations which, ordinarily, would be decisive in themselves. We have to make the enemy burn and bleed in every way physically and reasonably possible, in the same way as he has been burnt and bled along the vast Russian Front from the White Sea to the Black Sea.

But it is not so simple as it sounds. The problem is the bringing of very powerful and growing forces into action. For both Britain and the United States, there is the daring and complicated enterprise of landing on defended coasts, and building up supplies and communications necessary for a vigorous campaign, once a landing is made.

WAR AGAINST U-BOATS.

There was no need to exaggerate the danger of U-boats, because the British and American Governments had given the task of overcoming them priority in all their plans.

The losses we suffer at sea are very heavy, and hamper us and delay our operations. They prevent us coming into action at our full strength, and thus prolong the war.

Progress is being made in the war against U-boats. We are holding our own, and more than holding our own. In the last six months, Anglo-American and important Canadian new building exceeded all losses of the United Nations by over one and a quarter million tons.

That is to say, our joint Fleet is one and a quarter million tons bigger to-day than six months ago. Our losses in the last two months are the lowest for over a year.

Out of about three million souls who have been moved under the protection of the British Navy, only 1,348 have been killed or drowned, including missing.

The rate of killing U-boats has steadily improved. From January to October, 1942, the inclusive rate of sinking, certain and probable, was the best we have seen so far in this war. But from November to the present, a period of three months, that rate has improved more than half as much again.

At the same time, the destructive power of the U-boat had steadily diminished. In the first year of the war, the U-boat accounted for an average of 19 ships, in the second year 12, and in the third 7½.

THE FOOD POSITION.

Mr. Churchill said that it was quite true that Britain was making inroads upon her reserves of food and raw materials. We are doing this for the sake of military operations in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and for the sake of Russian convoys and giving supplies to India, Persia, and other Middle East countries. Provided the present intense efforts of new shipbuilding and anti-U-boat warfare were maintained, the United Nations would be definitely better off for shipping at the end of 1943 than now, and still better off at the end of 1944, assuming that the war continued until then.

It may be disappointing to Hitler to learn that we are on a rising tide of tonnage and not upon the ebb of shrinkage, but it is the governing fact of the situation. The more the sinkings are reduced, the more vehement our American war efforts can be. The margin is improving, and widening the means of power to strike heavier blows against the enemy.

The greater the weight we can take off Russia, the more quickly the war will end, the more depends upon the margin of the new building forging ahead over the losses.

THE CASABLANCA TALKS.

It was only after full cold, sober and mature consideration that President Roosevelt, with full concurrence as agent of the War Cabinet, decided that the note of the conference should be unconditional surrender of all our foes.

Our inflexible insistence upon unconditional surrender does not mean that we shall stain our victorious arms by wrong and cruel treatment of whole populations, but justice must be done, and justice must be stern and implacable.

No vestige of Nazi or Fascist power, no vestige of the Japanese war-plotting machine will be left by us when the work is done, as done it certainly will be.

A PLAN OF ACTION.

We have now a complete plan of action which comprises the apportionment of forces as well as their direction, and weight of different particular movements that are decided upon. This plan we are going to carry out according to our ability during the next nine months, before the end of which we shall certainly make efforts to meet again.

ENEMY NUMBER ONE.

The defeat and the breaking of German power must have priority over the decisive phase of war against the Japanese. All forces of the British Empire would then move to the Far Eastern area with the greatest possible speed and Great Britain would continue the war by the side of the United States with the utmost vigour, until unconditional surrender had been forced upon Japan.

THE BURMA ROAD.

For the time being in the war against Japan, the British effort is confined to the India theatre. Our Asiatic war effort is confined to operations particularly in Burma, to open the Burma Road to give what aid can be given to the Chinese. That is the task we have before us.

RUSSIA.

When I look at all that Russia is doing, and the vast achievements of the Soviet Armies, I should feel myself below the level of events if I were not sure in my heart and conscience that everything in human power was being done, and will be done, to bring British and American forces into action against the enemy with the utmost speed, energy, and on the largest scale.

This the President and I have urgently and specifically enjoined upon our military advisers and experts. In approving their schemes, and the allocation of our forces, we asked formally for more weight to be put into attacks and more speed into their dates. Intense efforts are now being made on both sides of the Atlantic for this purpose.

TURKEY.

It is no part of our policy to get the Turks into trouble. On the contrary, a disaster to Turkey would be a disaster to Britain and all the United Nations.

Hitherto, Turkey has maintained a solid barrier against agression from any quarter, and by doing so, even in the darkest days, rendered us invaluable

service in preventing the spreading of war through Turkey into Persia and Iraq, and preventing the menace to the oilfields at Abadan which are of vital consequence to the whole Eastern war.

It is of important interest to the United Nations, and especially Great Britain, that Turkey should become well armed in all the apparatus of a modern Army, and her brave infantry shall not lack essential weapons.

These weapons we and the United States are now, for the first time, in a position to supply to the full capacity of Turkish railways and other communications. We can give them as much as they are able to take, and give these weapons as fast, or faster, than Turkish troops can be trained to use them.

EGYPT.

The great battle at El Alamein would go down in history as the battle of Egypt, for by it Egypt was delivered. 'Everywhere in Egypt', there is the feeling that Britain had kept her word, that we have been a faithful and unfailing Ally, and that we preserved the Nile Valley and its cities, villages, and fertile lands from the horrors of invasion.

Tripoli was the first Italian city delivered by British arms from the grip of the Hun. Naturally, there was enthusiasm among the Italian populations.

THE TOUCH OF 'THE MASTER HAND'.

Mr. Churchill said he believed that the descent upon North Africa would be judged in the words which Premier Stalin used when he told him about it last August—that it was militarily correct. It certainly had altered the strategic axis of the war which enabled the Allies to recover the initiative in the west.

The Axis was losing a quarter or one-third of everything they brought across the sea to Tunisia. Our power of reinforcement is far greater than theirs, and the portentous apparition of the Desert Army driving Rommel before them is a new, most potent, and possibly even decisive factor. It is quite remarkable that the Germans should have shown themselves ready to run the risk and pay the price required of them by their struggle to hold the Tunisian tip.

While I have always hesitated to say anything which might afterwards look like over-confidence, I cannot resist the remark that one seems to discern in this policy the touch of the Master Hand, the same Master Hand that planned the attack on Stalingrad, and thus brought upon the German Armies the greatest disaster they have ever suffered in all their military history.

Including Rommel's Army, there must be nearly a quarter million Axis troops in the Tunisian tip, and the Allies must not, in any way, underrate the hazards. Very serious battles would have to be fought.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

13—2—43 to 19—2—43.

Russia.—During the week the Russians recaptured VOLCHANSK, and CHUGUYEV on the 10th ; LOZOVAIYA, on the 11th ; KRASNODAR and KRASNOA-SMEYSK on the 12th ; NOVO CHERKASSK, LIKHAYA, ZVEREVO NOVO SHAKHTY and ZOLOCHEV on the 13th; ROSTOV, VOROSHILOVGROD, KRASNY SALIN on the 14th; and KHARKOV on the 16th. KRASNODAR is in the Kuban Province and is its Key-city. All the other places are in the UKRAINE, of which KHARKOV is the Capital. Soviet troops are now advancing towards TAGANROG on the Sea of Azov and towards STALINO and OREL further north. In their precipitate retreat the Germans have been forced to abandon masses of lorries, cars and aircraft. Behind the Russian Armies Russian civilians are streaming back to their homes. Tractors, are being brought back to the UKRAINE in thousands for agricultural operations in the coming spring.

The present Russian victories have flung the Germans back some 375 miles from STALINGRAD. As the place names enumerated above will show they have been driven back and even beyond their 1942 winter-line which ran from BRIANSK and OREL through KURSK, BIELGOROD, KHARKOV and VOROSHILOVGROD to the vicinity of ROSTOV. This line has now been mostly crossed. In their onward sweep the Russians have recaptured practically the whole of what they lost in last year's German offensive and at some points even more. Only a small part of the captured territory in the CAUCASUS is still in German hands. The speed of the Russian advance in the present winter, which is as great as the German advance in the perfect weather of last summer, is, militarily, one of the miracles of the war.

Tunisia.—Rommel's battered troops have now fallen back in order on the southern sector of the Tunisian Front and reached the Mareth defences. The victorious 8th Army, its tempo somewhat slowed down by extensive surface demolitions, by mines and other devices on every mile of the road, has followed on the heels of the enemy and captured BEN GARDANE, 20 miles inside TUNISIA.

On Feb. 15th the enemy launched an attack suddenly in the area west of Faid, and pushing the American forces there about 20 miles back towards SBEITA, occupied GAFSA, some 110 miles, inland, along the railway from SFAX and SIDI BOUZID. Simultaneously the Americans occupied the high ground north of the Faid-Sbeita road. South of GAFSA the enmey is in some force at KEBILI, while the American troops are holding TOZEUR. KEBILI lies on the south-eastern edge of SHOTT OGERID and TOZEUR on the northen edge of it.

China.—The Japanese have renewed their attacks in the BURMA-YUNNAN border. Intense fighting is in progress in the TAMANLUNG area. One Japanese column which attacked MONGSUNG has been repelled and another advancing from MONGPAI has been fiercely engaged. A Japanese unit has

landed in WEST SUNWUI (KWANGTUNG), but another unit already in LUPAO in NORTH SAMSHUI has been surrounded. The Chinese have recaptured HACHING YA and MA PUNG.

The following Japanese raids are reported:—Feb. 10: HWEICHOW (SOUTH ANHWEI), SHENSI and SHENSI (TAIPING) and LUNGLING (HUNAN); Feb. 11: LUNHAI, CHUNGAI RYS, LINCHO, and KUEILIN—all in KWANGSI Province; and LUNGLING; Feb. 12, KUNMEN KU (KWANGSU), LUCHA-CHING (HUNAN), and KWEILIN.

Burma.—Guerilla attacks against the Japanese are continuing in northern and western BURMA. In the Chin Hills the Japanese were forced to withdraw when they attacked the CHIN LEVIES. In northern BURMA Kachin levies successfully ambushed Japanese troop-carrying trains. On Feb. 12 the 10th U. S. Air Force celebrated the first anniversary of its organisation by raiding the MYITGINA bridge and the RANGOON railyards.

A Japanese attempt, of Feb. 12, to counter-attack in the vicinity of DONBAIK and RATHEDAUNG was repulsed, with heavy losses to the enemy.

For their supplies the Japanese mainly rely on river-transport on the Irrawady and Chindwin, its tributory, but these water-ways being generally shallow, sampans, upto 50 feet long towed by motored vessels are largely used. The R. A. F. is now busily engaged in machine-gunning these river-craft as the most effective way of cutting off the enemy supplies.

The following R. A. F. raids are reported for the week:—Feb. 10—MAYO, Feb. 11—2 villages on the lower MAYU Peninsula and the Kala Dan river, Feb. 12—Lower CHINDWIN region, Feb. 13—KALACHAUNG, YEGYANBYIN and RATHEDAUNG, Feb. 14—SHWEBO, Feb. 15—HEHO.

The Solomons.—According to an official announcement the Japanese losses in the naval engagements between Jan. 29 and Feb. 4 were 15 ships—sunk or damaged, including two destroyers sunk, four probably sunk and six damaged.

Japanese positions in MUNDA (NEW GEORGIA) and KOLOMBANGARA were bombed.

New Guinea.—The Japanese withdrawal from the WAU towards MUBO continues. In the KUMSI and OPI sectors Allied patrols are active. RABAUL is continually raided.

Miscellaneous.—1. Ali Sohaily has been declared PERSIA's Premier in succession to Quavam Sultaneh who has resigned.

2. Dr. Risto Ryti has been re-elected President of FINLAND.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

7—2—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE (7 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—

The submarine base at LORIENT (France).

Military and Industrial objectives in the RUHR (Western Germany).

NAPLES (Italy).

NORTH AFRICA & MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles west of BEN GARDAN.

The airfield at TUNIS.

Rail communications in SICILY.

A merchant vessel off SICILY.

The airfields and buildings at CAGLIARI (Sardinia)

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at LAE (N. Guinea).
Jap occupied towns of KAUKENUA and TIMIKA (Dutch N. Guinea).
BOETON and WANGI Islands (Celebes).
Jap troops near KUTKAI (Eastern Burma).

8—2—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

The airfield at GABES (18 enemy planes shot down; 5 Allied planes missing).
Enemy vehicles near BEN GARDAN.
MESSINA (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire battlefield.

FAR EAST.

The harbour at DOBO (Aru Island).
The Jetty area at BABO (Dutch N. Guinea).
The Rahili airfield at BUIN.
GASMATA (N. Britain).
FINSCHHAFEN (N. Guinea)
The docks, buildings and rail yards at RANGOON (Burma).

9—2—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy airfield at KAIRWAN.
Towns in the CALABRO—**IONIAN** littoral.
The airfields at HERAKLION (Crete) and KASTELLI (Crete).
Shipping in southern SICILY.
Shipping in PALERMO harbour.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian battle-field.

FAR EAST.

The town of MERAUKO (N. Guinea).
The aerodrome at LAE (N. Guinea).
The airfield at shipping at CENARA (Celebes).
Villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).

10—2—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Railway yards at CAEN (France).

NIGHT:—
TURIN (Italy).

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

The docks at BIZERTA.
Railways in southern TUNISIA and SICILY.
A sea plane anchored off the south coast of SICILY (destroyed).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along entire Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

TOEAL (Kai Islands).
UBILI (N. Britain).
The aerodrome at LAE (N. Guinea).
KISKA (Aleutians).
A Jap gun post at MYINGYAN (Burma).
Battle areas and AKYAB area in Burma.
RATHEDAUNG.
HEHO aerodrome (Burma).

11—2—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE (2 Allied planes missing).

DAY:—
Railway yards at ROSENDAEL (France).
A factory at CAEN (France).

NIGHT:—
(3 Allied planes missing).
The Naval base and the submarrine base at WILHELMSHAVEN.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy ground positions near SENED.
Railways in TUNISIA.
A vessel off SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at LAE (N. Guinea).
MUNDA (N. Georgia).
Villages on the lower MAYU Peninsula.
Railway rolling stock and enemy transport in BURMA.

12—2—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
Trains, barges, trawlers and other vehicles in western GERMANY, HOLLAND and FRANCE.
Barracks and parading troops in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

NIGHT:—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA & MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles west of BEN GARDAN.
Axis forward positions in TUNISIA.
Shipping off the coast of TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

MUNDA (N. Georgia).
Enemy position in the KOLOMBANGRA Island.
The bridge at MYITGNE (Burma).
The docks at RANGOON.
CALACHAUNG and YEGYANBIN Burma).
Railway targets at MANDALAY (Burma).

13—2—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—
The docks and shipping at BOULOGNE and ST. MALO.
The iron and steel works at IJMUIDEN (Netherlands).
The harbour at NAPLES (Italy).
The airfield at COTRONE (Italy).

NIGHT:—
The German submarine base at LORIENT.

NORTH AFRICA and MEDITERRANEAN.

The docks at TUNIS and BIZERTA.
The airfield at TUNIS.
Air combats over TUNISIA (6 Axis planes shot down).
The harbour at PALERMO (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

(For the week 6-2-43 to 13-2-43
Axis losses 243; Russian losses 101 planes.)

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the entire Russian battle Front.

FAR EAST.

MUBO area in (N. Guinea).
The airfield at LAE (N. Guinea).
Hangars at MADANG and FINSCHHAFEN (both in N. Guinea).
The harbour at RABAUL (N. Britain).
FUILORO (Timor).
Shore position and shipping in SHORTLAND Island.
Japanese installations at LONKIN (Burma).
Railroad rolling stock in central Burma.
Freight cars at PAUKKAN (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

8—2—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA

Forward Allied troops in TUNISIA.

FAR EAST

The airfield at GUADALCANAR (Solomons).

9—2—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

LONDON area (only an alert).
HOME COUNTIES.

NORTH AFRICA.

TRIPOLI.

FAR EAST.

A small ship off AUSTRALIA (sunk).

10—2—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

DAY:—
South coast of ENGLAND (3 enemy planes shot down).

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combats over the Allied forward position.

FAR EAST.

HWEICHOW and LUNGLING (both in China).

11—2—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

Allied forward positions in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Covering the withdrawal of the battered German troops in the DONETZ Front.

FAR EAST.

BUNA area (N. Guinea).

12—2—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

Air combat over the ALGERIAN coast (1 Axis plane shot down).

FAR EAST.

RATHEDAUNG area (1 Axis plane shot down).

13—2—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

South-east coast of ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA.

8th Army forward positions in TUNISIA.

FAR EAST.

Allied position in the MUBO area.

14—2—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid any where in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

The allied position in the OUSSELTIA area.

FAR EAST.

MERAUKE (N. Guinea) (1 Jap plane shot down).

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE FALL OF ROSTOV, AND KHARKOV. ROSTOV fell on the 14th and KHARKOV on the 16th. This is the fourth time that ROSTOV has changed hands—first, when the Germans captured it on November 23, 1941, six days later when the Russians recaptured it, eight months later, when it fell during the German summer advance, and now, when the Soviet Armies have victoriously returned to it again. ROSTOV, which last year was Germany's gateway to the CAUCASUS has now became Russia's gateway back to the UKRAINE. This is not the end of the German tragedy however. NOVOROSSISK, the gateway to the Sea of Azov, as well as the LENINGARD—SCHUSSELBURG front are being busily evacuated. Destiny has caught Hitler by the throat. Benes' prophecy is already coming true. In an appeal on February 13 for Allied Victory Benes said, with remarkable prescience:

"Within a few weeks or months the German southern armies will stop on the line that is now being prepared. I myself consider this attempt may take place perhaps only for quite a temporary period, first somewhere on the

Dnieper and before KIEV and, perhaps, finally, on the Dvina and the Pripet marshes and on the Dneister. Hitler has already informed the Finns, the Rumanians and the Hungarians of this. And it is probably there that their army will be struck by its ultimate catastrophe."

The explanation of this stunning tragedy is not far to seek. Generalship is a kind of 6th sense which knows when to strike and when to step back, when it will be 'too late', as well as when it will be 'too soon'. Marshal Foch in the last war is credited with having had this quality of mind and it is evident that Stalin now has it. It is this which saved STALINGRAD when it was almost lost and has now noosed the German armies. Hitler committed the blunder of his life by rashly rushing in where the greatest generals had hesitated. He sought to conduct a military campaign by the methods of a political putsch, that is by do—or—die—tactics, by showmanship instead of an unerring grasp of the situation. In the course of German history never was a German army so overwhelmed because it was never so hopelessly generalled. To concentrate, as he did at STALINGRAD, at the apex of a sharp salient the sides of which were dangerously elongated was the sort of elementary blunder which, if committed by a junior staff officer in exercise, would have blasted his career.

'Totally untrained in the theory and practice of military strategy Hitler had recourse in the battle-field to the same tactics that enabled him to seize the RUHR and to effect the Austrian Anschluss. His hitherto unbroken successes had created the legend of infallibility; but it broke, as any such amateurish attempt must, when he reached STALINGRAD. Even after it had become clear that his 6th Army could not hold against the overpowering forces he gave orders to continue the fight—a repetition of the do-or-die-tactics so successful previously on the RUHR'. He has since repeated the blunder before MAIKOP, ROSTOV and KHARKOV. Thus Hitler has paid and is paying for presumption. The juggler has been exposed.

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TWO IMPORTANT SPEECHES. President Roosevelt's Broadcast on Friday last should be read as complementary to Mr. Churchill's earlier statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday. They refer to the same theme—CASABLANCA and are commentaries, as it were, on the great results reached at this historic conference.

The first object of the conference was to re-state, lest we should, in the distraction of war, forget it, the basic aim of the war-the *complete unconditional surrender* of the enemy. To leave a loop hole of escape would be a waste of the present colossal effort, a meaningless sacrifice of human lives, together with the certainty of another war in the next few years. It would be folly to give any quarter—Lord Selbourne expressed this determination, perhaps strongly, but emphatically when he stated in the House of Lords during the week, that Hell is the only refuge awaiting the perpetrators of the present atrocities. There must be no repetition, he declared, of the fiasco that

followed the last war. Mr. Churchill while reiterating this point modified his statement with the assertion that victory will not be stained by any wrong or cruelty. To this President Roosevelt added the corollary that AMERICA fought for the freedom of the whole world recognised as one single 'neighbourhood'. That is why, he added, this war, which had its origin in seemingly remote areas, had spread to every continent and involved the lives and liberties of the entire human race.

Secondly, though Stalin and Chiang-Kai-Shaik were not present, CASABLANCA was a unifying and co-ordinating conference and the United Nations—now numbering 31—may be considered to have evolved not only a united but also a unified plan of action. The CAIRO, ADANA, CHUNGKING, and CALCUTTA conferences that have followed are but a continuation of CASABLANCA, where the grand strategy, adumbrated initially in the North-west tip of AFRICA, is being implemented. It is for this General MacArthur will soon meet Field-Marshal Wavell. For this the North African command has been simplified and unified under General Eisenhower.

Thirdly, CASABLANCA settled the question of Priorities. It was agreed that GERMANY was enemy No. 1 and that not only the defeat but the break-up of the German Power must be the first consideration. For the present in the Far East the British effort would be confined to the opening up of the BURMA Road and after the German defeat the vast forces of the Empire would be added to America's to fight JAPAN till she too surrendered unconditionally.

Fourthly, the strategy of the European offensive was formulated, which, stated in the order of importance, was to consist of All-Aid to RUSSIA, the Mastering of the U-Boat, and the Expulsion of the enemy from the Tunisian Tip. All these however were only preparatory to the final opening of an Anglo-American European Second Front. Self interest as well as gratitude demanded that 'everything in human power'—these are Churchill's words, every help should be rendered to RUSSIA. And this help was to consist not only of sending supplies but also of opening another European front to relieve the pressure on RUSSIA. 'Intense efforts', said Churchill, 'are being made for this purpose on both sides of the Atlantic.' President Roosevelt reiterated, 'the amazing Russian Armies have been delivering over-powering blows. We must do likewise in the West. The enemy must be hit and hit hard from so many directions that he never knows which is his bow and which his stern.'

The war against the U-boat is steadily pursued. So far the enemy has been held, though not yet mastered. In the last 6 months new ships have been constructed in excess of the sinkings, so that the Anglo-U. S. fleet is now a million and a quarter tons bigger than 6 months ago. The rate of 'killing' the U-boats has also steadily increased while the loss of shipping from U-boat attacks has steadily declined, especially from January 1942 and particularly since November 1942.

At the Tunisian Tip the enemy is mustering his strength in a vain attempt to stem at this point the forces of the United Nations assembling to

flood and over-run his home-lands. In this frantic endeavour he is already losing from a quarter to a third daily of whatever he is sending across the narrow abyss of the Mediterranean for the reinforcement of Rommel and Arnim, while all the while the portent of the 8th Army is pressing like a nightmare from behind. Still the Germans are coming into AFRICA driving their Italians before them. Evidently this is the policy of the 'Master hand' that wrought the deed of shame at STALINGRAD, has brought about the disgrace of ROSTOV and the debacle at KHARKOV. But the enemy in North AFRICA will be attacked mercilessly by 'the great 8th Army' assisted by the French forces under Le Clerc,' these are the President's words, and from the west by the combined forces of GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA.

The battle of the SOLOMONS and PAPUA has gone well and apart from the recovery of territory inconsiderable, the campaign has established the superiority of the Allied soldier and sailor and the air-arm; but the aim was not to stop with this, or, to quote the President, 'to inch our way from island to island across the vast expanse of the Pacific' but to drive the invader from the soil of CHINA for which important actions will be taken not only over CHINA but also over JAPAN. 'There are many roads leading right up to TOKYO; none of them will be neglected.'

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NAZI PROPAGANDA. While, as a matter of fact the Nazi demon rolls and reels under the heavy Russian blows, and Gen. Deitmar, the German military Commentator, has himself admitted in his statement of the 6th instant that GERMANY was now' experiencing the entire tragedy of the reverse of STALINGRAD and that for the first time an entire German Army had ceased to exist', Goebbels glibly tries to make out that the Russian Armies have 'failed to achieve any remarkable success' and that their gains in fact are 'petty' and 'too costly'—the gains being STALINGRAD and ROSTOV and KHARKOV to take which the Germans spent two summers and two winters. The ingenious Goebbels has also clearly changed his tune. He has resurrected his crusade on Bolshevism with a shriek and a fury intended to drown the sorrows of STALINGRAD, ROSTOV and KHARKOV. According to him these disasters, not a mere defeat, constitute a German call to the world to resist Bolshevism. GERMANY is out to save the world from Bolshevism.

Lord Haw Haw in his weekly commentary tries to make the point that Montgomery's advance which was only extremely lengthy had all been in vain. It is something that Haw Haw concedes that the pursuit of Rommel was over a distance of 1,500, from near ALEXANDRIA where he hoped to have the glory of a triumphal entry, to the foothills of the Mareth Line. But it is not known how and why the fall of TOBRUK BENGHAZI and TRIPOLI, which has opened up the Mediterranean has become so unimportant. It would be interesting to know what Rommel's re-action has been to Lord Haw Haw's facile lie because while Haw Haw is speaking from the safety of an under-ground radio station 'somewhere in GERMANY' Rommel is in the sad

plight of a man hemmed in by Montgomery's 8th Army on one side and the Anglo-American forces on the other side, in hourly danger of being caught between SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS.

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VOLKLISTE. Hitler has suddenly discovered that the Poles belong in fact to the Germanic race! It was only a 'historical accident' that they followed non-Germanic Polish customs! The All-merciful Fuhrer has now accepted this new biological discovery and 'requests' the Polish people to enrol themselves in the German Volkliste which would enable them to claim German nationality and all its advantages, as well as enlist in the German army to fight Bolshevism. The trick is in the last part of the offer. After WARSAW the Poles know what the Fuhrer's 'special protection' means. Hitler wants men for the fighting and the home front. He wants the Poles to enlist; hence his gracious offer inviting them to join the chosen race.

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ITALIAN AFFAIRS. Italian ministries have a notoriously uncertain tenure but more than ordinary surprise attaches to the recent announcement of the dismissal from the Foreign Ministership of Count Ciano who has married Mussolini's favourite daughter Edda. Perhaps Ciano's qualification was nothing more than his son-in-lawship and at any rate, it is well-known that Hitler had never but a hearty contempt of him. It is to be inferred that while it was the hand of Mussolini that drove his son-in-law out of office, it was really the voice of Hitler that settled his fate.

It may be there was also a political necessity. A scapegoat for the late and continuing military disasters was wanted and, who more appropriate than the dear son-in-law—apt sacrifice for a lost empire. Mussolini's assumption of all the ministerships in ITALY, or to be correct, some six of them, since Ciano's dismissal, also encourages the presumption that new tasks have devolved on the Dictator which he dare not entrust to any other. Mussolini is now besides Duce, and Ersatz Caesar of a non-existent empire, his own Chief of Government, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Air Minister, War Minister, and Navy Minister. As Minister of the Interior he has now to cope with the increasing air-raids of the R. A. F. and the American Air Forces, and keep up a people's failing and fallen morale. As Navy Minister his grave task is to keep a navy in safe hiding and as Minister of War he has to find cannon-fodder for his Nazi chief and make sure that his men retreat faster than his enemies advance, whether the battlefields be in North AFRICA or RUSSIA.

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GUADALCANAR. The loss of GUADALCANAR is the second serious defeat for JAPAN in the southern Pacific waters and TOKYO has admitted it though it tries to minimise its importance by describing it as 'withdrawal after attaining the primary object', which was

we suppose the gaining of time to build up bases further north. But whatever the explanation GUADALCANAR is not a mere tiny island in the midst of a host of other islands whose loss is negligible, but a point of great strategic importance which the Japanese did want to seize for using as a jumping-off station to reach the NEW HEBRIDES, and NEW ZEALAND lying further away and also to prevent AMERICA from using AUSTRALIA as a base of operations against JAPAN. The importance of GUADALCANAR is evident from the fact that the battle for its possession had raged for a period of no less than six months. The Japanese secured a footing here as early as the end of January of last year but the struggle began only in August when the Allied offensive began with the U. S. invasion of the island by land, sea and air. U. S. marines first took possession of the Henderson Airfield, after which, especially in October fierce battles raged for weeks; the enemy simultaneously trying to reinforce himself by nightly landings, by floating food supplies ashore in canisters brought by destroyers and by dropping them also from parachutes. Once he even succeeded in pushing back the U. S. forces almost to the edge of the air-field but the air-field itself was never captured. And now, whatever the reasons, the enemy has abandoned every slender chance he ever had of an assault on the air-field and island though its possession is an essential prerequisite to the maintainance of the enemy's air and sea control in the S. W. Pacific. The evacuation of GUADALCANAR is a loss of face to TOKYO; it is the loss of a Key-island, which clearly betrays JAPAN'S diminishing shipping and air-strength. PAPUA was the first blow; next the turn has come to GUADALCANAR; RABAUL, we expect, will be the next main base to be recovered.

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JAPANESE LIES go one better than the GERMAN. Japanese lies are soft and sneaky and much more treacherous than the blatant boasts of the German bully. While all Japanese Radios have been telling the world that Tojo has offered 'independence' to BURMA this year, premier Tojo has as a matter of fact, made no such promise. All he said was that he hoped, that BURMA might become independent soon. But we wonder who is this Tojo to make the promise. He has stolen BURMA but BRITAIN is a already on his track. The sea-approaches to BURMA are flanked by the long and hostile Indian coast-line. The ANDAMANS, at present a Japanese out-post, are under heavy Allied bombing; so also AKYAB and RANGOON. Land communications by which alone Japanese reinforcements can now arrive into BURMA, for the sea has become unsafe, are just now being built with unwilling Siamese labour. BURMA has yet to become a Japanese possession for Japan to make any promise to the Burmese. It is all premature. The Japanese also know it as is borne-out by the fact that they have not yet invested any of their private capital here. We also know the fate of the 'Burmese *Independence* Army'. It now bears, significantly enough, the new name of the 'BURMA *Defence* Army'. According to a Japanese decree dated March 23, 1942, all Japanese coming

into BURMA should be exempted from the payment of taxes and even *dues*; no customs duties should be imposed on Japanese goods for 15 years; and a compensation of Rs. 3,000 should be paid for every Japanese soldier killed on account of the War in BURMA. The Berlin Radio blurted out on Feb. 1 why TOKYO was so loud-voiced about the grant of a fictitious freedom for BURMA. It was, to quote its words, 'to sweep away the Anglo-American propaganda' showing up Japanese motives. JAPAN already finding her position in BURMA uncomfortable and insecure would also like to wash her hands of all responsibility. BURMA, she now pretends, should fight for her own hand. She must get her independence by her own efforts if she can.

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FIGHTING IN BURMA. Stiff fighting continues on the ARAKAN coast where a form of trench warfare has developed in which the enemy, tenacious and none too easy to dislodge, retires, when overpowered into the neighbouring jungles and waterways only to reappear again when another opportunity arises.

While a great offensive is on the anvil, for which General MacAruthur will soon meet Field Marshal Wavell in INDIA, it looks however that a large-scale sea-borne invasion of BURMA is not just yet—not at least until September or October, after the monsoon season has come and gone.

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Air-Training in Indian Universities. We are glad to learn that none too soon Air-Training is being introduced as an optional course of study in the Indian Universities. ALIGARH has already taken the step and MADRAS may soon follow. In our opinion it is a necessary orientation in the present times when India's sons should learn for the sake of their hearth and home to fight not only on land and sea, but also in the air.

As Air Vice-Marshal A. C. Collier pointed out at ALIGARH on Saturday last when inaugurating the course, the Indian Air Force, unlike the Indian Army, is little appreciated by the Indian public. Parents and others think more of the hazards, fancied or real, of flying than of the glorious career it opens up for young men and of the greatness of the service it leads to.

Once in the Indian Air Force', as the Vice-Marshal said, a boy is taught not a trade but trades, and he is fed, accommodated and clothed at the State expense. The trades include electricians, engine and air frame fitters, armourers, metal works, welders, radio-mechanics, instrument makers, photograpers, wireless operators and propeller makers. They conform to the same high standards as in the Royal Air Force and are officially recognised by the Board of Trade.

'It is difficult', added the Vice-Marshal, to exaggerate the value of such a trade in the post-war world. Most of these trades have their counter-parts in civil life and their commerical value would be at least as great as that of a University degree.'

FUEL CONTROL IN PUDUKKOTTAI. On another page we reprint a Press Communiqué announcing the measures now taken in the State to control the price of fire-wood in the State Depóts. Its object is two-fold—to help the poor to buy fuel at the easy pre-war rates and also to check its export by traders intent on profiteering. Two prices are fixed—a lower rate for the poor who will buy in small quantities, and a higher, almost prohibitive, rate for those who would seek an opportunity to commercialise and profit.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S BROADCAST

February 13.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

" I have returned from one of the Fronts overseas where production from American factories and the training given in American camps are being applied in actual warfare against the enemy. I have seen our troops in the field. I have inspected their superb equipment. I have talked, and laughed, and eaten with them. I have seen our men in Trinidad, in Natal, in Brazil, in Liberia, and in Gambia. In these places, there is no actual fighting, but there is hard, dangerous, essential work, and there is a tremendous strain upon the endurance and spirits of our troops.

AMERICA'S MAGNIFICENT TROOPS.

" They are standing up magnificently under that strain. I have seen our men, and some of our American women, in North Africa. Out there is war. Those men know that, before this war is over, many of them will have given their lives. But they know also that they are fighting to destroy the power of the enemies of their country—that they are fighting for peace which will be a real and lasting peace, and a far better world for the future. Our men in the field are worthy of the great faith and high hopes which we have placed in them. That applies as well to the men of our Navy, without whom no American Expeditionary Force could land safely on foreign shores.

" And it applies equally to the men of our Merchant Marine who carry essential munitions and supplies without which neither the United States nor our Allies could continue the battle.

" No American can lock at these men, soldiers or sailors, without great emotion and great pride, and a very deep sense of responsibility to them. Because of the necessary secrecy of my trip, men of our Armed Forces in every place I visited were completely surprised. The expression on their faces certainly showed it. I wish I could pay similar surprise visits to our men in other fields of operations—Naval bases and islands of the Pacific, the Australian mainland, the islands of Alaska, the islands of the Atlantic, Iceland, Britain, Central Africa, the Middle East, India, Burma and China. I wish I could tell them face to face that their Government and their people are very proud of the great job they are doing, in helping to strengthen the vice that is slowly but surely squeezing the breath out of our enemies.

WHAT HE FIGHTS FOR.

"In every battalion and in every ship's crew, you will find every kind of American citizen, representing every occupation, every section, every origin, every religion and every political view point.

"Ask them what they are fighting for, and every one of them will say: 'I am fighting for my country.'

"Ask them what they really mean by that, and you will get what, on the surface, may seem to be a wide variety of answers. One will say he is fighting for the right to say what he pleases, and to read and listen to what he likes. Another will say he is fighting because he never wants to see the Nazi Swastika flying over the first Baptist church in Elm Street. Another soldier will say he is fighting for the right to work and earn three square meals daily for himself and his flocks. A fourth soldier will say he is fighting in this world war so that his children and grand children will not have to go back to Europe, or Africa, or Asia, to do this ugly job over again.

"THEY FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

"But all these answers really add up to the same thing, every American fights for freedom. And to-day, the personal freedom of every American and his family depends, and in future will increasingly depend, upon the freedom of his neighbours in other lands. For to-day the whole world is one neighbourhood.

"That is why this war, which had its beginnings in seemingly remote areas, has spread to every continent, and most of the islands of the sea, involving the lives and liberties of the entire human race.

"And unless the peace that follows recognises that the whole world is one neighbourhood, and does justice to the whole human race, the germs of another World War will remain a constant threat to mankind.

THE CASABLANCA DECISIONS.

"The right of self-determination included in the Atlantic Charter does not carry with it the right of any Government to commit wholesale murder, or the right to make slaves of their own people, or of any other peoples in the world. And the world can rest assured that this total war—this sacrifice of lives all over the globe—is not being carried on for the purpose, or even with the remotest idea, of keeping Quislings or Lavals in power anywhere on this earth.

"The decisions reached, and the actual plans, at Casablanca, were not confined to any one theatre of war, or to any one continent, or ocean, or sea.

"Before this year is out, it will be made known to the world—in actions rather than in words...that the Casablanca Conference produced plenty of news, and it will be bad news for the Germans and Italians—and the Japanese.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

"We have lately concluded a long and hard battle and we have made notable gains. That battle started in the Solomons and New Guinea last summer. It has demonstrated our superior power in aircraft and, most importantly, in the fighting qualities of our individual soldiers and sailors.

"The American Armed Forces in the South-West Pacific are receiving powerful aid from Australia and New Zealand and also directly from the British themselves.

"We do not spend the time it would take to bring Japan to final defeat merely by inching our way forward from island to island across the vast expanse of the Pacific.

"Great and decisive actions against the Japanese will be taken to drive the invader from the soil of China. Important actions will be taken in the skies over China—and over Japan itself.

"The discussions at Casablanca have been continued in Chungking with the Generalissimo by General Arnold, and have resulted in definite plans for offensive operations. There are many roads which lead right to Tokyo. We shall neglect none of them.

JAPAN.

"You can be quite sure that if Japan should be the first of the Axis partners to fall the total efforts and resources of all the United Nations would be concentrated on the job of crushing Germany first: on the other hand, let there be no question in Nazi or Japanese minds that we are wholly one in the prosecution of the war to complete victory all over the world.

THE WORD OF HONOUR.

"The Prime Minister of Britain wished to make a formal agreement 'that, if Germany should be conquered before Japan all British and Empire resources and manpower would, of course, join with China and us in the out-and-out final attack on the Japanese. I told him that no formal statement or agreement along those lines was in the least bit necessary—that the American people accept the word of the great English gentleman, and that it was obvious and clear that all of us are completely in accord in our determination to destroy the forces of barbarism in Asia and in Europe and in Africa.

"In other words, our policy towards our Japanese enemies is precisely on all fronts, and ending the war as quickly as we can, on the uncompromising terms of unconditional surrender.

WE CANNOT ESCAPE HISTORY.

"Lincoln said in 1862: 'Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trail through which we pass will light us in honour or dishonour to the latest generation.'

"To-day, 80 years after Lincoln delivered that message, the fires of war are blazing across the whole horizon of mankind—from Kharkov to Kunming—from the Mediterranean to the Coral Sea—from Berlin to Tokyo.

"Again—we cannot escape history. We have supreme confidence that, with the help of God, honour will prevail. We have faith that future generations will know that here, in the middle of the twentieth century, there came a time when men of goodwill found a way to write, and produce, and fight to destroy the forces of ignorance, intolerance, slavery and war."

THE RED ARMY. THE HUN TERROR

To-day Adolf Hitler curses what he is pleased to call the Russian deception in attacking Finland with third-rate troops. He feels that he had been badly cheated. But this is very far from the truth. For Hitler was warned—and well warned too—by those who knew better, not to attack the Red Goliath, but he took the plunge in haste, and now that his army is well caught in the unplumbed depths into which he hurled it, he has time to repent—and repent bitterly—his great folly.

For his error has laid Germany low beyond any possibility of recovery, and she will be forced to face Casablanca's "unconditional surrender" edict.

In view of this it is interesting to study the characteristics of the men and women of Russia who faced the grim ordeal of the Nazi battering ram, and by their loyalty and devotion to their native land and their great leader, Stalin, are to-day overcoming it despite their many privations.

Like the Russian people as a whole the Red Army man is good-natured, unsophisticated and intelligent. He makes friends easily and, if he likes a person, he will give him his last piece of bread or his last pair of socks.

He is slow to anger, but once he gets mad there is no stopping him. Now the full flood of his fury is loosened against the Nazis. However, he has no wish to destroy German culture or take reprisals, when the chance comes, for atrocities committed against Russians.

The Red Army men maintain that all they demand is the destruction of Fascism and its leader; but if German people, as distinguished from Nazis, try to obstruct the Russians in their war on Fascism, then they too will have to suffer.

In 18 months of war, the Russians have learned a lot about fighting. Their greatest strides were probably made in developing individual initiative and self-reliance. The Red Army's plan from the very beginning of the War was to fight delaying actions which would be more costly to the enemy than to itself, and then, after the punch had gone out of the German fist, to turn its full offensive on the Reichswehr.

For her winter offensive Russia undoubtedly has millions of trained troops which have been in field reserve east of the Volga. In the northern half of Russia, the Red Army is far stronger than it was last spring, because the Germans attacked nowhere along the whole front and the Soviets moved practically nothing to the south to support Marshal Timoshenko at Stalingrad.

Industrially, Russia is not as strong as she was at the start of the war because of the disastrous losses of plant and sources of raw materials like iron and coal in the Don basin and other areas, because of their tremendous loss of man-power.

Nevertheless Russia is probably stronger now in relation to Germany than she was a year and a half ago. Almost every day the Soviet Press announces the opening of a new factory at some place in the Urals or Siberia, and trains are jammed with workers and technicians moving east.

Though Russia's agricultural position is desperate and will get worse, it would be hopeless this winter had not her Government introduced science and the machinery of planning under collectionised and State farm systems. Farm out-put of the Soviet Union has increased between 50 and 100 per cent, since Government control went into effect. The increase, of course, has been more than offset by the German thrust into the Ukraine and Kuban.

Without strength behind it, even the toughest and the bravest army would fold up. The big reason why Russia has been able to bear nearly the full weight of the Wehrmacht for 18 months is that almost her whole economy has been utilised for military rather than civilian requirements.

Russia's war effort is almost incredible. A large proportion of shops have been closed, and those still functioning are practically devoid of goods. The best stocked and busiest of all stores are book-shops, but they deal mostly in old volumes. Probably fewer than 10 out of 1,000 civilians have been able to purchase a new item of clothing for a year.

Women do everything that men do, no matter how strenuous the task may be. Their replacement of men in factories, on farms and other industries is far more complete than in Great Britain, which has made a concerted drive in that direction. Russian women drive street cars and locomotives, dig defence lines, lay railroad tracks, build highways and bridges, sweep streets, cut timber, make munitions and machine tools, operate tractors, harvest grain, and serve in hundreds of different capacities in the army, naval and air force. Hard work has made them tough and brawny.

Food supplies for a large part of the general public have dropped below the irreducible minimum necessary to maintain the health of the nation. Undoubtedly the position will become worse this winter, and by next spring many believe that it will be grave for the Russians not engaged in war work. Most of the available means of transportation are needed to haul supplies to the various fronts. Food for civilians comes second in Russia to imports from America and Britain. Food also takes second place to munitions. It is known that owing to a shortage of ships, Stalin had to make a choice between wheat and weapons. He chose weapons.

STALIN.

(*Ralph Parker*).

Joseph Stalin makes on those who meet him for the first time an impression both immediate and lasting. It is an impression, all agree, compounded of modesty, naturalness and controlled forcefulness. His precisely chosen phrases produce the effect of careful preparation, yet in the way he changes from gravity to large hearted joviality there is spontaneity.

As I read the impressions made by Stalin's personality on a large number of very different kinds of people over a period of several years, certain constant aspects continually recur--Stalin's understanding of the common man and his combative spirit. Each of these aspects is playing a part in making Stalin Soviet Russia's war leader.

This leader, from whose desk secretaries remove countless scraps of paper on which through long hours of concentration late at night he has jotted records of telephone and radio conversations with generals, factory directors and technical experts over one-sixth of the world's land surface, never loses sight of the common man whose fate his power decides.

This son of a Georgian cobbler and a woman of the Caucasian mountain tribes has never forgotten his humble origin, and his reaction to the exaggerated, sometimes vulgar, worship manifest for him in the Soviet Union is often sharp, though he differentiates keenly between the naive and sincere devotion of remote peoples, often but a few stages removed from primitive ways of living, and the lip service of the more sophisticated. Any coldness or abstraction on his part would be a serious blunder in his method of maintaining power among such peoples as the Nenets of North Siberia or the nomadic Kalmucks of the Caspian shores.

When Sergei Iliushin was constructing the famous Stormovik plane, Stalin cleared all other work from his desk for the time it took to master the details of the project. He made at least one important suggestion which reduced the building time considerably. When engineers were working on the Moscow water system, Stalin plunged into a study of maps, plans and blue-prints, and a penetrating suggestion saved the State many millions of roubles.

It is this application of a finely trained mind and a long range imagination to the vast problems which faced the Soviet Union in peacetime that has created popular confidence, and in the long run this and his widely advertised geneality are the foundations on which wartime confidence in Stalin is based.

In a planned State based on reason, some one must ultimately take the responsibility for the plan. The responsibility falls on Stalin; and, never forgetting that he is planning for a distant future, Stalin's main care is that the application of informed and sceptical minds should be given to every plan. Never does one hear the criticism that Stalin has ever botched his work by faulty planning, though—and this may surprise people abroad—Stalin's work is discussed freely by the public.

Stalin is a fighter. Since he was 15, when he joined the underground groups of Russian Marxists in the Caucasus, he has been fighting, and forty-eight years later, he retains the pugnacity of the days when he began to learn the tactics of beating his enemies.

At many stages of his long fighting career Stalin has seen the young State in danger and he has fought for it fiercely and ruthlessly. To-day this man of slight build and considered speech, sitting in council around a large table in a white walled room with no decoration save Lenin's portrait flanked with red banners, faces a situation where the Soviet power is assailed by the massed forces of its deadly enemy, Fascism, now sprawling across Russia's rich fields.

What is Stalin's róle as defender of that power and land? His strategic plan is long laid and has been modified according to new situations constantly developing internationally as well as internally since the October revolution twenty-five years ago. But there are four constant aspects having a direct bearing on the war. They are the nationalities, the Red Army, industrial location and educational policies. In each of these the personal hand of Stalin is clearly seen.

Of Stalin's strategy during the war certain aspects are already historical. The decisions which led to the fighting retreat of last summer, the scorched earth, the stand before Moscow and the Winter campaign all bear the mark of Stalin's revolutionary intuition. It was this sense of timing that took Russia's industry on wheels eastward and brought Siberian reserves to Moscow at the precise moment when they were needed. "Nothing is as good as it ought to be" is a favourite Stalin saying.

Stalin's public appearances have been few since the outbreak of the war, though he has appeared in the Red Square and at the front. The people do not know how, as their Defence Commissar, he works or where and how often he meets his staff chiefs, nor are they curious to know. But everywhere one sees the working of his mind.

Latest photographs of Stalin show that the war's strain has, left certain marks. His face is thinner and his hair is graying a little, but those who have seen him lately say his power of exposition, his buoyancy and his geniality are as great as ever. Though it is doubtful whether he has had much time to take a hand at his favourite game of Russian skittles in the country recently, it is certain that his interest in current literature is still maintained. He has read numerous plays and he has addressed the young writers.

On no national leader has the future weighed so heavily as on Stalin. None has felt so acutely that on his decision depends the lives and well-being of peoples yet unborn. Fortunately for the United Nations, Stalin has always regarded himself as a fighter and perhaps there is something symbolic in the fact that as the People's Defence Commissar and the chairman of the Defence Council (and as such the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces) he still wears the semi-military tunic of peacetime.

THE MARETH LINE.

(General Alexander C-in-C. Middle East., February 10).

The Mareth Line stretches only 40 miles into the desert. It is not a very comfortable position as it was intended only to stop horse transport of the older days.

With the introduction of mobile units, the flank can be turned. Heavy rain has been slowing up the advance of the Allies. In mobile warfare, wet weather is an enemy to the attacker.

The enemy is bound to hang on in Tunisia so long as possible, but the length of time he hangs on depends on whether he can get supplies across, as he is dependent on thousands of tons of stores, food and ammunition.

The R. A. F., has not yet developed to its full striking force, but as our aircraft proceed further into Tunisia and get more airfields, there will be more escorts for our bombers attacking in day-light.

I look forward to the time when there would be three armies—the Eighth, the First and the Persia-Iraq Command—available for use where they could best serve, and once the Mediterranean was open, it would be possible to give more of the older members of the Eighth Army home leave.

I doubt whether it is possible for the Germans to send troops into Spain or Turkey, owing to their enormous commitments.

The Russian expedition has been disastrous for them. The whole situation in the Middle East has been relieved by their withdrawal from the Caucasus, and the threat to Persia has been lifted."

Our task of driving the Axis right out of the African continent is not going to be an easy one, but the dice are loaded in our favour. The enemy is making every effort to increase his supplies but he has only a few ports at his disposal. While bad weather has hampered our land attacks so far, next month the rainy season will come to an end.

While the Mareth Line is a strong position, we will not be daunted by it. If Rommel goes back from there, we shall continually push forward our airfields as bases for our bombers. When the Eighth Army has accomplished its task, it will be ready for fresh operations and will be used.

SALUTE TO SAPPERS.

(By the "*News Chronicle's*" correspondent with the *Eighth Army*).

The Sapper has just gone upon a mine. Black smoke is still hanging in the air and the jeep which was a few yards ahead is charred scrap and twisted wreckage 50 feet from where it was thrown up high as the telegraph wires.

He is still alive—but only just. The Scout car men standing by would do anything to help him—anything—for they know that this mangled man is one of the true heroes of the war: one of the men who have cleared a way for their cars, for tanks and for all the Eighth Army in its pursuit of the enemy.

Nobody has heard much about the Royal Engineers. That's because their job of preparing the way is already done when tanks and even men with bayonets go out to do theirs.

Here is a great crater 60 feet across and 20 feet deep, but the sappers are already making a new road. Others have pressed on and, across this break in the road, have already cleared a way for us.

It sounds and looks easy the way they do it. Some of them are moving along far below where the road has reached the flat coastland. They are walking with heads bent, like gardeners looking for sprouting seeds. Now and then they pause as if to admire one. That would be a mine. They bend over it, scrape away the earth or something with their fingers, and move on again.

Simple? But imagine that everything you touched, every step you took might explode enough dynamite to blow you skyhigh; that every time the front offside wheel of your car ran a few inches off a surfaced road, you might go up in a terrific blast that would hurl you down unconscious and torn. That's what these men have to think about all the time.

An ambulance with a doctor has just raced up. They are taking the sapper away. We are hoping hard that he will be all right.

NEW GIBRALTAR.

The vast underground fortress tunnelled in the Rock of Gibraltar during the past two years was described in a broadcast the other day.

Gibraltar has very little level ground, and the town lies on the western side of the Rock, shaped like a sharp piece of cheese with a huddle of buildings overshadowed by high cliffs. There is no room for fortification anywhere on the steep slopes and, apparently, no shelter from attack. In the confident days before France fell, no one imagined that Gibraltar would be attacked. Then came Dunkirk, and we woke up and started the huge job of work that has been done in the past two years.

Now if Gibraltar is bombed from the air and shelled from the sea, and even if her airfields are lost and invasion troops swarm through her narrow hilly streets, the Rock will still remain to be conquered. The new underground fortress makes it possible for every soldier, sailor and airman to live in safety while the enemy on the Rock is harassed and is in constant danger.

Modern siege experts—some of them Canadians—have put everything that up-to-date tunnelling methods permit into their work, so that now throughout the 2½-mile length of Gibraltar, the new city buzzes with activity. Sometimes it is as much as a thousand feet below the surface where even the noise of the gigantic gun practising is not heard. There is a great power house manned by soldiers to supply light, air and power to the city. Kitchens with electric ovens and bacon slicers, barracks with hundreds of comfortable bunks, and repair shops where practically any gun could be overhauled, are other features. There are A. R. P. posts complete with showers, anti-gas chambers, first aid stations, bakeries, libraries, cinemas and huge stores for food and ammunition. A large military hospital is also hidden inside the Rock, and there is an intelligence headquarters station.

Two years' hard work has not merely protected the fighting men of the Rock. Even if every A.-A. gun on the Rock were smashed, it would still be a decidedly hazardous flight for any Axis aircraft. An enemy invasion fleet might find Gibraltar in ruins, and still be forced to retire before immense guns which it could not see. The new Gibraltar has its brain centre hidden from attack, and is able to control any form of offensive without sending a single man into the open.

FUEL PRICE CONTROL—IN PUDUKKOTTAI.

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ.

Till recently, fuel was sold in the Town Government Depót at Rs. 9 for casuarina and Rs. 6 for jungle fuel per ton.

2. The Darbar observed that in the adjoining Districts, the price of fuel was more than double these rates and that consequently there was a very large export of fuel from the State out of which outside merchants were making large profits.

3. To check these exports the Darbar raised the price of fuel to Rs. 12 for casuarina and Rs. 10 for jungle fuel per ton.

4. After further consideration in order to enable small purchasers to buy fuel cheap, while continuing to check exports they have now decided that to purchasers of quantities not exceeding ¼ ton a month fuel will be sold at the old rates of Rs. 9 for casuarina and Rs. 6 for jungle fuel per ton.

5. For larger quantities the enhanced rates of Rs. 12 for caaurina and Rs. 10 for jungle fuel will be charged. It is hoped that this expedient will meet the situation. It will be adopted experimentally

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXXIV. (*Batch 5*)

20- 2-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
21- 2-43	Tiruvarangulam.	7.00 ,,
,,	Vamban ...	7.30 ,,
22- 2-43	Tirumayyam ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Melur ...	7.30 ,,
23- 2-43	Pallivasal ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Pillamangalam ...	7.30 ,,
24- 2-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
24-2-43	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
,,	College A English	10.15 ,,
,,	College B Tamil.	10.15 ,,
,,	P. Puduppatti ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Vendampatti ...	7.30 ,,
25- 2-43	Vellanur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Sembattur ...	7.30 ,,
26- 2-43	Puliyur ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kannangudi ...	7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXXXV. (*Batch 6.*)

27- 2-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.
28- 2-43	Malampatti ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Perambur ...	7.30 ,,
1- 3-43	Kilanilai Puduppatti.	7.00 ,,
,,	Kilanilaikottai...	7.30 ,,
– 3-43	Malaikkudippatti	7.00 ,,
,,	Tulaiyanur ...	7.30 ,,
3- 3-43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School.	10.15 ,,
,,	College A English	10.15 ,,
,,	College B Tamil.	10.15 ,,
,,	Pulvayal ...	7.00 p.m.
,,	Vayalogam ...	7.30 ,,

4th and 5th are Mahasivarathiri holidays.

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

20—2—43	Tirumayyam.
21—2—43	Virachchilai.
22—2—43	Viralimalai.
23—2—43	Vadakadu.
24—2—43	Kilanilai Puduppatti.
25—2—43	Alangudi.
26—2—43	Pudukkottai.
27—2—43	Vettamviduthi.
28—2—43	Tittanviduthi.
1—3—43	Arimalam.
2—3—43	Perambur.
3—3—43	Rayavaram.
4—3—43	Kulipirai.
5—3—43	Pudukkottai.

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